

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



2019 Federal Conference Curriculum Portfolio Motions

A36. Alice Springs Branch (NT)

CARRIED

“That ICPA (Aust) reinforces the importance to the Minister for Education and other relevant ministers, to recognise and continue to support Food and Fibre being taught and integrated into the primary and secondary school curriculum.”

Explanation:

As there are no strong agriculture programs being carried out in Northern Territory schools, it would be appealing to families to enrol their children in NT boarding schools if this was more on hand. There are many topics that fall under the Agriculture heading and members would like to ensure that a broad range of agricultural learnings are implemented when teachers cover Agriculture in their classes. e.g. livestock, cropping, sustainable land management, horticulture, conservation, preservation etc. Whilst Alice Springs School of the Air (ASSOA) and some primary schools include gardening, seed germination and vegetable gardens as a subject/project Agricultural Topics could be more intense, especially in senior years e.g. if Livestock, Aquaculture, Sustainable Land Management, Horticulture, and other Industries that fall under the Agriculture banner were recognised and were also on offer as part of the school curriculum; such as National Park Rangers and Landcare groups. This could possibly mean less families travelling interstate for boarding schools to meet certain children's interests and understanding of the link between education and agriculture / land management.

A37. Tambo Branch (QLD)

CARRIED

“That ICPA (Aust) lobbies the relevant ministers to ensure that all sectors of Agriculture Production are taught in classrooms.”

Explanation:

For too long now the agriculture component in the curriculum has been focused on limited aspects of agriculture. Whilst it is important to teach students about the environment there is a much bigger picture at play. It is extremely worrying that our urban students are not being educated in the fields of animal husbandry, production and cropping for example. There are too many students who do not know where eggs come from, milk etc. and how do you grow a carrot or a cotton crop. Rural and remote students are also disadvantaged as they only have the knowledge of what happens at home and nothing in a broader sense.

It is disappointing to see so many young people protesting, tying themselves to abattoirs, going on strike and causing great upset due to ignorance and being indoctrinated by the education system.